

Introduced by Senator Ridley-Thomas

December 6, 2006

Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 3—A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment to the Constitution of the State, by adding Section 17 to Article IX thereof, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCA 3, as introduced, Ridley-Thomas. Public postsecondary education: community college districts.

An existing provision of the California Constitution provides that the Public School System includes all kindergarten schools, elementary schools, secondary schools, technical schools, and state colleges established in accordance with law, and the school districts and other agencies authorized to maintain these schools. This provision prohibits any school or college or any other part of the Public School System from being directly or indirectly transferred from the Public School System or placed under the jurisdiction of any authority other than one included within the Public School System.

This measure would require the Legislature to provide for an independent public postsecondary education system of local community college districts as part of the Public School System.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

1 (a) California's community colleges enroll over 2,500,000
2 students each year, providing opportunities for higher education
3 and the skills to be competitive in California's workplace.

4 (b) California's community colleges are affordable. Low student
5 fees and financial aid have made community colleges a gateway
6 to a better life for millions of Californians.

7 (c) Business leaders call California's community colleges a vital
8 component of our state's workforce development, contributing to
9 a healthy economy.

10 (d) The state can fund community college enrollment growth
11 without raising taxes or taking funds from elementary and
12 secondary schools. A dual funding mechanism under Proposition
13 98 will achieve both; and

14 WHEREAS, It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature to
15 propose this constitutional amendment to require the Legislature
16 to reform the governance and funding of the state's community
17 colleges in order to increase and stabilize state support for, and to
18 improve the performance of, the California Community Colleges;
19 now, therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Senate, the Assembly concurring,* That the
21 Legislature of the State of California at its 2007–08 Regular
22 Session commencing on the fourth day of December 2006,
23 two-thirds of the membership of each house concurring, hereby
24 proposes to the people of the State of California, that the
25 Constitution of the State be amended as follows:

26 That Section 17 is added to Article IX thereof, to read:

27 SEC. 17. The Legislature shall provide for an independent
28 public postsecondary education system of local community college
29 districts as part of the Public School System.